

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 24, 1975

Dear Mayor Gibson:

Last August, I had the honor of signing into law the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974.

This historic legislation was passed by the Congress to change the old, helter-skelter system of helping our cities grow. The new act is designed to let the cities and counties of our Nation set their own priorities and make their own plans -- with only very broad Federal guidelines.

I am pleased and delighted that your City has completed its own plan -- and that it has been approved by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

That is only the first step. I urge that you enlist all your citizens in helping to carry out this plan. This is a new direction in Federal policy and requires total public participation if it is to succeed.

Congress has passed an excellent law. The Department of Housing and Urban Development has completed its task.

Now it is up to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Gerald R. Ford". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized script. The first name "Gerald" is written in a larger, more prominent hand, while "R. Ford" is written in a smaller, more compact hand.

The Honorable Kenneth A. Gibson
Mayor of Newark
Newark, New Jersey